

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

LOK SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.1928  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 03.07.2019

INDIANS IN FOREIGN PRISONS

1928. SHRI MANOJ KOTAK:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government is aware that 8000 Indian Nationals are languishing in foreign prisons;
- (b) if so, the details thereof along with the efforts made by the Government to have inter-ministerial/ Governmental meetings for repatriation of these prisoners; and
- (c) the details of use of Indian Community Welfare Fund (ICWF) by Indian Missions for repatriation of Indian prisoners, country, person and percentage-wise during the last three years and the current year?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

[SHRI V. MURALEEDHARAN]

(a) & (b) As per the information available with the Ministry, the number of Indian prisoners in foreign jails as of 31.05.2019 is 8189 which also includes under-trials. Country-wise list is given at Annexure. However, due to strong privacy laws prevailing in many countries, the local authorities do not share information on prisoners unless the person concerned consents to the disclosure of such information. Even countries which share information do not generally provide detailed information about the people of foreign countries imprisoned.

Indian Missions/Posts abroad remain vigilant and closely monitor the incidents of Indian nationals being put in jail in foreign countries for violation of local laws or alleged violation of local laws. Apart from extending them all possible consular assistance, Indian Missions and Posts also assist in providing legal aid wherever needed. Missions and Posts also maintain a local panel of lawyers where Indian community is in sizeable numbers.

The issue of repatriation of Indian nationals in foreign prisons is regularly pursued by Indian Missions and Posts abroad with the local authorities concerned. The Government also follows up this issue during consular and other consultations with other countries, including in the context of bilateral agreements for Transfer of Sentenced Persons [TSP] wherever applicable. Inter-Ministerial meetings on this issue are also convened, as necessary, between Ministries of External Affairs and Home Affairs.

In addition, the Government, through its Missions/Posts abroad and during high level visits, also takes up and pursues grant of amnesty/commutation of sentences of Indian prisoners in foreign countries. Since 2016 till present, in the countries in Gulf region, a total of 3087 Indian nationals have received amnesty or commutation of their sentences.

(c) The Indian Community Welfare Fund (ICWF) is set up in Indian Missions & Posts abroad for assisting overseas Indian nationals in distress situations on a means tested basis in deserving cases. The support extended under ICWF includes air passage to stranded overseas Indians. However, no specific data with regard to repatriation of Indian prisoners through ICWF is maintained in the Ministry.

**ANNEXURE**

S.No	Name of Country	Number of Indians in foreign jails as on 31.5.2019
1	Afghanistan	Nil
2	Algeria	Nil
3	Angola	Nil
4	Argentina	Nil
5	Armenia	9
6	Austria	5
7	Australia	78
8	Azerbaijan	3
9	Bahrain	134
10	Belarus	1
11	Bangladesh	58
12	Belgium	12
13	Bhutan	53
14	Botswana	Nil
15	Brazil	2
16	Brunei	1
17	Bulgaria	Nil
18	Cambodia	3
19	Canada	70
20	Chile	Nil
21	China	270
22	Congo	4
23	Colombia	5
24	Cote D' Ivoire	1
25	Croatia	Nil
26	Cuba	1
27	Cyprus	11
28	Czech Republic	Nil
29	Denmark	5
30	Egypt	2
31	Ethiopia	Nil
32	Fiji	1
33	Finland	1
34	France	38
35	Germany	59
36	Ghana	1
37	Guatemala	2
38	Guyana	Nil
39	Hungary	3
40	Iceland	Nil
41	Indonesia	19
42	Iran	18
43	Iraq	4
44	Ireland	Nil
45	Israel	7
46	Italy	242
47	Jamaica	Nil
48	Japan	7
49	Jordan	25
50	Kazakhstan	Nil
51	Kenya	Nil
52	Korea (DPR)	Nil
53	Korea (Republic of)	3
54	Kuwait	511
55	Kyrgyzstan	2
56	Laos PDR	2
57	Lebanon	5
58	Libya	Nil
59	Madagascar	15
60	Malawi	Nil
61	Malaysia	576
62	Maldives	14
63	Mali	Nil
64	Malta	1
65	Mauritius	4
66	Mexico	2
67	Morocco	Nil
68	Mongolia	Nil
69	Mozambique	6
70	Myanmar	61
71	Namibia	NIL
72	Nepal	1160

73	Netherlands	1
74	New Zealand	13
75	Niger	Nil
76	Nigeria	1
77	Norway	Nil
78	Oman	101
79	Pakistan	48
80	Palestine	Nil
81	Panama	1
82	Papua New Guinea	Nil
83	Peru	Nil
84	Philippines	34
85	Poland	5
86	Portugal	5
87	Qatar	257
88	Romania	Nil
89	Russia	6
90	Saudi Arabia	1811
91	Serbia	Nil
92	Senegal	Nil
93	Seychelles	Nil
94	Singapore	111
95	Slovak Republic	Nil
96	Slovenia	2
97	South Africa	6
98	South Sudan	Nil
99	Spain	21
100	Sri Lanka	111
101	Sudan	Nil
102	Suriname	Nil
103	Sweden	2
104	Switzerland	Nil
105	Syria	Nil
106	Tajikistan	Nil
107	Tanzania	1
108	Thailand	44
109	Trinidad & Tobago	Nil
110	Tunisia	Nil
111	Turkey	2
112	Turkmenistan	Nil
113	Uganda	1
114	United Arab Emirates	1392
115	United Kingdom	6
116	Venezuela	Nil
117	Vietnam	Nil
118	United States of America	689
119	Uzbekistan	Nil
120	Venezuela	Nil
121	Vietnam	1
122	Zambia	Nil
123	Zimbabwe	Nil
	<b>Total</b>	<b>8189</b>

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